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REMARKS

All claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Robin et al. (U.S. patent 6,137,877) in view of Eaton (U.S. patent 5,710,808) alone or in combination with Kammath et al. (U.S. patent 5,887,058) or Robinson (U.S. patent 6,408,067). Those rejections are respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested with respect to the amended claims.

The disclosed embodiments of the present invention provides for economic use of memory space in a dialer routing table by permitting any number of rules to be established in a prefix table 54. Those rules may define the prefix itself and the digits of the sequence to be considered in determining an appropriate long distance carrier. The rule may also identify a particular table, one of plural long distance (LD) pointer tables 56, through which a particular carrier is identified from a particular set of digits in the dialed sequence. Finally, the rules provided in the prefix table may identify completion of the input dialing sequence so that the output sequence can then be generated.

More specifically, as recited in each of the independent claims, a variable length prefix portion of the telephone number accesses a prefix table entry that defines an action descriptor. That action descriptor indicates how the telephone number is then processed in a subsequent table look up using another portion of the telephone number. The dialing sequence is then generated based on that subsequent look up.

The examiner recognizes that Robin fails to teach accessing information or dialing sequence in a table format. For that feature he has cited Eaton, Fig. 4. Eaton, however, relies on a single look up that fails to provide the flexibility of the present invention. For any prefix, a single dialing sequence is determined. Beyond the prefix, the dialed numbers have no effect on the dial sequence other than to be dialed after a new prefix determined by the dialed prefix. By contrast, with the present invention the first look up in a prefix table controls subsequent table look ups which rely on the dialed digits other than the prefix digits. For example, whereas the prefix 01 in Fig. 4 of Eaton would always result in 01 being dialed with remaining digits, the

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present invention allows the area code to be used in a subsequent table look up to determine what carrier is used and thus what carrier prefix digits are dialed.

None of the cited references teach successive table look ups in which access to a prefix table entry defines the subsequent actions as recited in each of the independent claims.

Many of the dependent claims, such as claims 9-13, 16-22, 34-38 and 41-46 point to specific tables and actions on those tables. Without any teaching of multiple levels of tables, the prior art can teach nothing toward those specific tables and actions.

The cited references generally do not teach the additional limitations of the dependent claims. For example, claims 24 and 28 are directed toward a method of programming the tables. Specifically, the tables are reprogrammed through DTMF signals received from a remote computer. Although the cited Robinson patent suggests that data be downloaded from a computer, there is no suggestion that the data be received on the telephone line through DTMF tones.

Claims 1, 26 and 50 have additionally been rejected as being unpatentable over Robin et al. in view of Kammath et al. That rejection is also respectfully traversed.

As discussed above, Robin et al. fails to teach the use of tables. Kammath et al. relates to a telecommunications switch and not to a telephone dialer. Kammath et al. responds to dialing sequences; it does not generate them. Accordingly, Kammath et al. teaches nothing toward the generation of a dialing sequence as claimed.

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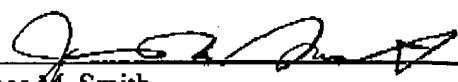
CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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